

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 025119
ORIGIN MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 SIG-01 SS-15 /039 R

DRAFTED BY M/MO/DE:AMPONCE:RGMAYS, JR.
APPROVED BY M/MO:JMCLARK
EUR/EX - MR. TULL (DRAFT)
EUR/NE - MR. DONCHI (DRAFT)
EB/EX - MR. DERTADIAN (DRAFT)
S/IG - MR. HIGH (INFO)

-----102294 311639Z /53

P 311612Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025119

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM M/MO JOAN M. CLARK

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: AODE, NO

SUBJECT: MODE REVIEW - AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANT'S POSITION

REF: A. OSLO 0158, B. OSLO 5301 (1977)

1. YOUR PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANT'S SLOT AT OSLO IS BEING CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL MODE REVIEW OF OVERSEAS POSITIONS BASED ON EVALUATIONS SUBMITTED BY CHIEFS OF MISSION. RECORDS HERE INDICATE THIS IS A STATE POSITION REIMBURSED BY AGRICULTURE. WE HAVE NOT YET SOUGHT AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THIS MATTER PENDING FURTHER DECISIONS AT HIGHER LEVELS ON TIMING AND EXTENT OF REDUCTIONS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. INITIAL CONCERN HERE, OF COURSE, RELATED TO NUMBERS OF AMERICANS
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ABROAD, WHEREAS POSITION IN QUESTION IS STAFFED BY A FOREIGN NATIONAL. MOREOVER, DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A FAIR AMOUNT OF CONGRESSIONAL MAIL PROTESTING POSSIBLE CUTS IN OVERSEAS STAFFING FOR FOREIGN AGRICULTURE SERVICE.

2. FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION TEAM WILL LOOK AT ROLE OF THE AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANT IN FRAMEWORK OF U.S. POLICY

OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER MISSION SECTIONS. IF THIS CAN BE DONE BEFORE CASE IS RESOLVED HERE, ANY VIEWS THEY DEVELOP COULD HELP FACILITATE OUR DECISION.

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3. MEANTIME, WE INTERPRET YOUR 0158 AS CONFIRMATION OF THE POINTS MADE IN PARA TWO, OSLO 5301, NAMELY THAT OTHER PERSONNEL ON EMBASSY STAFF CAN ABSORB THE 20 PERCENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANT'S WORK WHICH NEEDS TO BE PERFORMED IN NORWAY. PLEASE CONFIRM WHETHER PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF THIS POSITION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AGATTACHE COPENHAGEN. VANCE

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